

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN EDITOR'S COMMENTS ON PEACE PROCESS

1. ALI HAMDI AL GAMAL, CHIEF EDITOR OF AL AHRAH, AND
CONFIDANTE OF PRESIDENT SADAT, EXPRESSED HIS GROWING DIS-
MAY OVER U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST DURING CONVERSA-
TION JANUARY 30 WITH PAO. GAMAL SAID AMERICAN POLICY ON
ARAB/ISRAELI ISSUE IS SIMPLY NOT CLEAR, APPEARS CONTRA-
DICTORY AND INCONSISTENT. GAMAL SAID IT WAS PARTICULARLY
APPARENT IN RECENT WEEKS THAT WASHINGTON WAS AVOIDING A
STRAIGHTFORWARD UNAMBIGUOUS STANCE, SAYING ONE THING ONE
DAY AND ANOTHER THING THE NEXT. GAMAL SAID IT SEEMED AS
IF THE U.S. IS TRYING TO APPEASE ISRAEL AND ALL THE OTHER
PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE AT THE SAME TIME, AND AVOIDING TAK-
ING A FIRM POSITION ON ANY OF THE ISSUES. WASHINGTON
APPEARS TO BE "CONFUSED", AND NOBODY KNOWS WHAT IT WILL DO
NEXT. GAMAL SAID EGYPTIANS WERE VERY DISAPPOINTED IN
THIS VACILLATION. GAMAL SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DURING
JERUSALEM COMMITTEE TALKS, SECRETARY VANCE PROPOSED WORD-
ING FOR A RESOLUTION THAT WAS WATERED DOWN FROM PRESIDENT
CARTER'S STATEMENT, IN AN ATTEMPT TO SATISFY ISRAELI DE-
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MANDS. GAMAL SAID HE WAS NOT SURE IF THAT STORY IS TRUE,
BUT IN ANY CASE EGYPTIANS ARE NOW MORE AND MORE CONVINCED
THAT U.S. IS "WEAK" PARTNER. PAO GAVE GAMAL COPY OF
BRZEZINSKI INTERVIEW CARRIED IN FRIDAY WIRELESS FILE,
POINTING OUT KEY PASSAGES AND EXPLAINING HOW STATEMENTS
CONSISTENT WITH EARLIER U.S. POLICY, BUT GAMAL REACTED BY
SAYING "THAT'S JUST THE TROUBLE: WASHINGTON ALWAYS PUTS

OUT LOTS OF NICE WORDS, BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN LANGUAGE, BUT
THEN THERE IS NO ACTION."

2. COMMENT: BELIEVE GAMAL'S GROWING FRUSTRATION WITH U.S.
AS MEDIATOR REFLECTS WIDESPREAD FEELING AMONG INTERESTED
EGYPTIANS.EILTS

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